

Appendix C

Recreation Area Designations: Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA) and Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMA)

A. Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)

A Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) designation intensifies management of areas where outdoor recreation is a high priority. It helps direct recreation program priorities toward areas with high resource values, elevated public concern, or significant amounts of recreational activity. Areas with a SRMA designation can be expected to see investments in recreation facilities and visitor services aimed at reducing resource damage and mitigating user conflicts (BLM 1990). Implementation-level plans are completed for each SRMA to fully describe management actions and objectives (BLM 2005b).

There are currently no designated SRMAs within the planning area.

B. Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA)

An Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMA) is an area that emphasizes the traditional dispersed recreation use of Public lands (BLM 1990). ERMAs have an undeveloped character that allows visitors to escape crowds, rely on their own skills and equipment for recreation pursuits, and freedom from stricter regulations (BLM 1990). All lands that are not within a designated SRMA revert to the ERMA category. BLM actions in ERMAs is limited to custodial actions and therefore do not require an implementation-level plan (BLM 2005b).

Table C.1. Bay RMP Extensive Recreation Management Area

| Bay RMP Extensive Recreation Management Area | | |
|---|--|---|
| Management Objectives | <p>The Bay ERMA will be managed to provide opportunities for area residents, visitors, and commercial recreation providers to engage in motorized and non-motorized primitive recreation activities. All BLM managed lands in the Bay planning area will be managed as Semi-primitive Motorized.</p> <p>Primitive areas are managed to be essentially free from evidence of humans and onsite controls. Motor vehicle use within the area is not permitted. Primitive areas are managed to maintain an extremely high probability of experiencing isolation from others and little to no managerial contact. Independence, closeness to nature, self-reliance and an environment that offers a high degree of challenge and risk characterizes this class. Back country use and management of renewable resources are subject to the protection of back-country recreational values.</p> <p>The remaining lands will be managed as Semi-primitive Motorized, which are predominantly unmodified natural environments of large size. Evidence of humans and management controls are present but subtle. Motor vehicle use is allowed, but the concentration of users should be low. Onsite interpretive facilities, low-standard roads and trails, trailheads, and signs will stress the natural environment and will be the minimum necessary to achieve objectives. The consumption of natural resources is allowed. Efforts will be taken to reduce the impact of utility corridors, rights-of-way, and other surface-disturbing projects on the natural environment. The frequency of managerial contact with visitors will be low to moderate.</p> | |
| Outcomes | | |
| <u>Primary Activities</u> | <u>Experiences</u> | <u>Benefits</u> |
| Sport Fishing | Developing skills and abilities | <u>Personal:</u> -Restored mind from unwanted stress |
| Sport Hunting | Experiencing a greater sense of independence | -Improved skills for outdoor enjoyment -Improved outdoor recreation skills |
| Motorized Boating | Enjoying exploring on your own | -Stronger ties with family and friends -Greater respect for Cultural Heritage |
| Float Boating | Savoring the total sensory experience of a natural landscape | -Enhanced awareness and understanding of nature |
| Camping | Enjoying getting needed physical exercise | <u>Community/Social:</u> -Greater community involvement in recreation and land use decisions |
| Sightseeing | Feeling good about solitude, being isolated, and independent | -Enlarged sense of community dependency on public lands |
| Wildlife Viewing | | <u>Environmental:</u> -Increased awareness and protection of natural landscapes |
| Commercial Recreation Activities: (hunting/fishing guides and river outfitters) | Enjoying an escape from crowds and people | -Greater community ownership and stewardship of park, recreation, and natural resources -Reduced negative human impacts such as litter, vegetative trampling, and unplanned trails |

| Bay RMP Extensive Recreation Management Area | | |
|---|--|--|
| Traditional Recreation Activities: (berry picking, trapping, subsistence hunting) | | <u>Economic:</u> -Increased work productivity -Improved local economic stability -Maintenance of community's distinctive recreation tourism market niche/character |
| Setting Prescriptions | | |
| <u>Physical</u> Landscape is primarily Primitive to Backcountry with established winter trails and limited OHV routes. In general the area is natural in appearance and undeveloped. | <u>Social</u> Encounters with other users along travel routes and at campsites will be low. Group sizes tend to be small. Evidence of use will include infrequent observation of foot prints, ATV and snow machine tracks. Noise and litter will be infrequent. There will be slight vegetation trampling at popular campsites and aircraft landing areas. | <u>Administrative</u> Access is primarily by motorized vehicles including aircraft, motorboat, ATV, and snow machine. Most ATV and snow machine use radiates out of isolated communities such as Goodnews Bay, Dillingham, Koliganek, and Levelock |
| Management and Marketing Implementation Actions | | |
| Management Actions - No intensive management. - No facilities would be developed to enhance visitor use. - No significant amounts of staffing or expenditures for the area. | | Marketing Actions -Private sector marketing of recreation opportunities (outfitters/guides, transporters, lodges, area Chambers of Commerce). -BLM website and brochures describing local recreation opportunities. |
| Administrative and Monitoring Implementation Actions | | |
| Administrative Actions: - In limited-use areas all motorized use is limited to existing trails and roads. - All areas within the planning area will be designated as Limited to recreation off-highway vehicle use. - Allow Open cross-country travel for snow-machines when adequate snow cover is present. - Motorized vehicles exceeding 2,000 (GVWR) would be prohibited without written authorization from the BLM. - Camping associated with Commercial activities will be prohibited without written authorization from BLM. Short term camping will be limited to 14 days within a 28-day period. | | Monitoring Actions: - Restrict the number of vehicles if visitor conflicts become known and/or if resource damage is observed. - Though helicopters and -fixed-wing aircraft are <u>not</u> considered OHVs, there use would be allowed to provide for recreation use until user conflicts required mitigation. -Continued field compliance of authorized Special Recreation Permits. -Monitor established Visual Resource Management objectives. |

